

FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

Southern Area Fire Behavior Outlook

(click on any graphic in this product to enlarge it)

Forecast Valid for: 11/09/10	Date/Time Issued: 11/09/10 @ 0700 EST
Next Update: 11/10, 2010 @1000	Signed: Jon Wallace, Fire Behavior Analyst

This is a general fire behavior outlook covering the entire Southern Geographic Area. It is designed to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to help wildland firefighters with the fire order "initiate all actions based on current and expected fire behavior". Firefighters must use onsite observations and spot weather forecasts to calculate site-specific fire behavior for individual wildland fires.

Fire Weather Summary:

****Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches:**

- ❖ For complete fire weather watch and warning details and fire weather forecasts see: [National Weather Service Fire Weather](#)

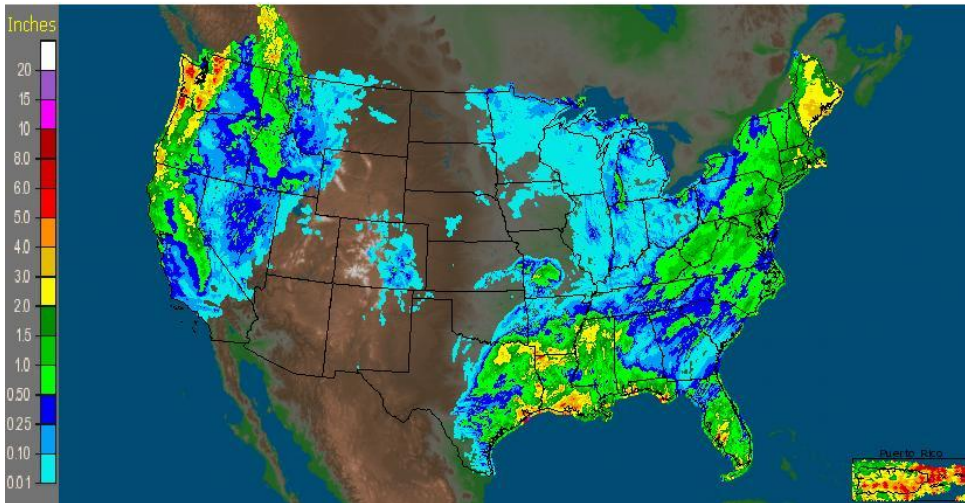
See the [MesoWest Regional Surface Map](#) for Southern area 24 hour precipitation amounts.

See national precipitation outlooks at [U.S. Today's Precipitation Outlook](#), [U.S. Third and Fourth Day Precipitation Outlook](#) , [U.S. 5 Day Precipitation Outlook](#), and [U.S. 14 Day Precipitation Outlook](#).

State of the Fuels:

Most eastern areas of the region have received a brief rest from high fire danger as a result of the rainfall over the last several days. This rainfall however was not enough for long term relief from the drought conditions that we have been experiencing. Fuels will begin to dry out rapidly as this front moves through with humidity values forecast to be in the 20-30 percent range over most of the region. Texas and Oklahoma are drying out and beginning to see more ignitions and conditions which will allow for fires to burn over multiple operational periods. The [Texas Forest Service Predictive Services website](#) has detailed information about current conditions in Texas.

CONUS + Puerto Rico: Current 7-Day Observed Precipitation
Valid at 11/8/2010 1200 UTC- Created 11/8/10 23:41 UTC



Fire Behavior Outlook:

Fire Behavior is once again on the increase specifically in the western parts of the region, and in Florida.



Texas, Oklahoma, Central and North Florida, South Georgia

Active These areas have received little rainfall in the past 7 days. Humidity values post rainfall has dropped significantly allowing fuels to dry rapidly. Fire fighters should expect to see active fire behavior when ignitions occur.

Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, southern Appalachian Mountains

Moderate-Active fire behavior in these areas has decreased due to precipitation. Fire managers should closely monitor humidity values in these areas. One day of low humidity will dry fuels out and make them available to burn again. Leaves are coming off trees quickly now which will add to the non-compacted fuel loads on the ground and also allow increased winds through the forest canopy.

North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, northern Appalachian Mountains

Low-Moderate The majority of this area has received more than an inch of rain in the past few days which has greatly reduced fire danger and fire behavior potential.

RATING	FLAME LENGTH	IMPLICATION
LOW	0-1	Fire will burn and will spread, however, it presents very little resistance to control and direct attack with firefighters is possible.
MODERATE	1-3	Fire spreads rapidly presenting moderate resistance to control, but can countered with direct attack by firefighters.
ACTIVE	3-7	Fire spreads very rapidly presenting substantial resistance to control. Direct attack with firefighters must be supplemented with equipment and/or air support.
VERY ACTIVE	7-15	Fire spreads very rapidly presenting extreme resistance to control. Indirect attack may be effective. Safety of firefighters in the area becomes a concern.
EXTREME	>15	Fire spreads very rapidly presenting extreme resistance to control. Any form of attack will probably not be effective. Safety of firefighters in the area is of critical concern.

Outlook:

The Climate Prediction Center issued its long range forecast today for the upcoming winter and spring...here are a few items of interest:

Southern Plains, Gulf Coast States & Southeast: warmer and drier than average. This will likely exacerbate drought conditions in these areas. All southern states are at risk of having above normal wildfire conditions starting this winter and lasting into the spring;

Florida: drier than average, with an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures. Above normal wildfire conditions;



For the complete winter outlook just issued go to: [Climate Prediction Center](#)

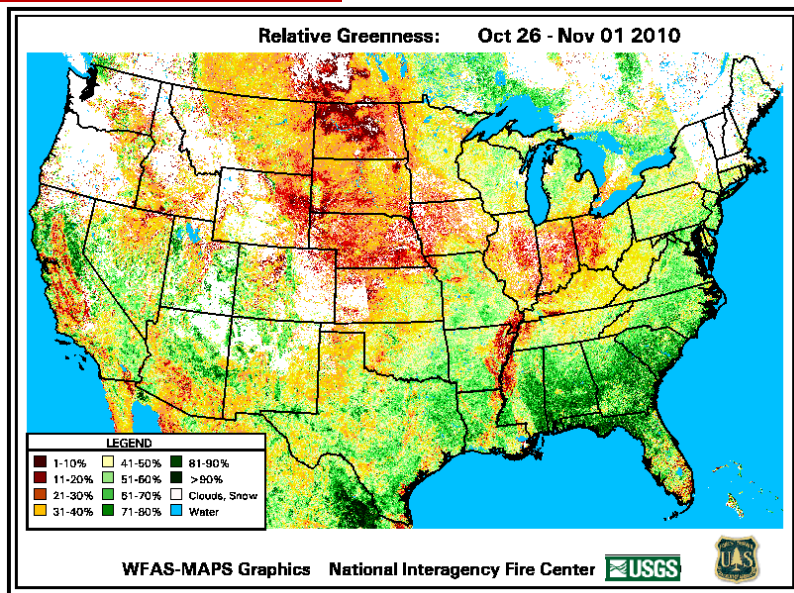
See also [Southern Area 7 Day Significant Fire Potential](#)

See 6-10 and 8-14 day outlook charts located: [6-10 Day Prognosis](#), [8-14 Day Prognosis](#).

****Important Predictive Services Area Indices:** (See [Southern Area Interactive Fire Danger Map](#)) Just click on the PSA for specific 100, 1000, and ERC graphs

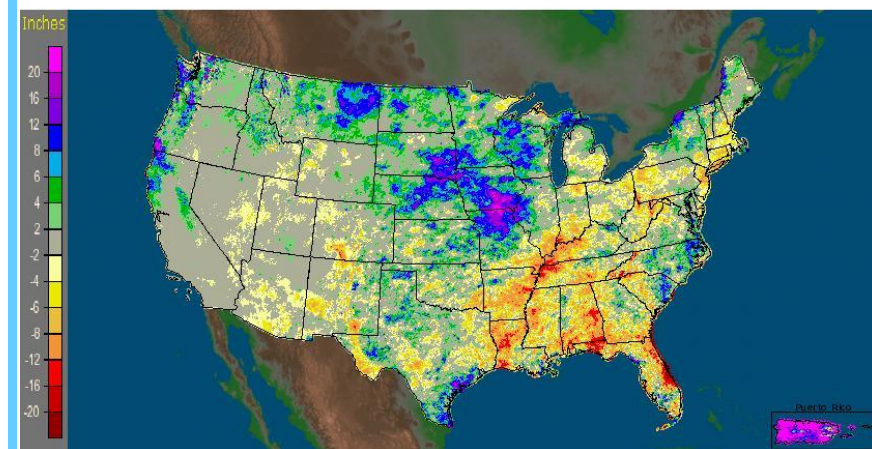
>> REMEMBER the information on the graphs comes from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and not single RAWS<<

****Relative Greenness**



****180 Day Departure From Normal Precipitation**

CONUS + Puerto Rico: Current 180-Day Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 11/8/2010 1200 UTC- Created 11/8/10 23:44 UTC



Safety Message

Red Flag Warnings: What is a Red Flag Warning?!? Do firefighters know what a red flag warning means? Red Flag warnings are issued by the National Weather Service as a way of telling firefighters that unusual weather conditions that will affect fire behavior are occurring that day. What are these conditions? Fire managers need to know the [criteria in place in their state](#) for the issuance of a red flag warning, and when a red flag warning is in place for the day brief firefighters on what that warning should mean to them. Is the warning for high winds? Is so expect rapid fire spread. Is the warning for low humidity? If so expect increased spotting, increased burning intensity and increased difficulty to control. It is critical that firefighters know forecasted weather for the day, and how that weather will affect fire behavior.

Firefighters that are well informed before they get on the fireline will be able to make better decisions when they get to the fireline.

Maintain Your Situational Awareness!!

WFDSS:

The Southern Area Coordination Center now has a WFDSS Support Desk in place. If you have the need for WFDSS products such as FSPRO, Near Term Fire Behavior, Short Term Fire Behavior or Decision Document assistance please contact [Kim Ernstrom at 208-994-1996](#), Kim_Ernstrom@nps.gov or Jon Wallace at 561-735-6036, jon_wallace@fws.gov

Jon Wallace, Fire Behavior Analyst

BASE ALL ACTIONS ON CURRENT AND EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR!

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Southern Area Coordination Center
1200 Ashwood Parkway, Suite 230, Atlanta, GA 30338

678-320-3000